

# Standards of Public Land Health

## Evaluation of 62028 MONTOYA RANCH Allotment

[ 03/01/2010 ]

Study Area or Assessment Area	UPLAND			BIOTIC			RIPARIAN		
	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet
62028-IDSU-A036	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Montoya Ranch allotment, 62028. Ten of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic functions and 13 assessed biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with quantitative information gathered from previous data collected at the trend study plot locations within the allotment were utilized to make rangeland health determinations. Quantitative evaluations are performed by the Roswell Field Office interdisciplinary teams, which include some or all of the following: ground and vegetative cover and composition, production, frequency and ecological condition. The collections which were initiated in the late 1970's/early 1980's, are scheduled and conducted approximately every 5 years. This allotment is in the "C" (Custodial) category.

This allotment contains 80 acres of public land. The study is located on one ecological site; Shallow Limestone CP-3. A majority of the indicators for this location fell into the None to Slight category or Slight to Moderate category; the categories Functional Structural Groups and Invasive Plants were rated as Slight to Moderate. Juniper was noted here influencing both Functional/Structural Groups and Invasive Plants.

There are no riparian areas on the public land within this allotment.

**Recommendations:** With a majority of the indicators falling in the None to Slight or Slight to Moderate category, this allotment is rated as "Meeting" the standards for Rangeland Health. Continue the rangeland monitoring studies to insure proper stocking rates are maintained and that the perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet						
SITE 62028-IDSU-A036						
Legal Land Desc	NWSE 17 0060N 0210E Meridian 23	Acreage		80		
Ecosite	070CY102NM SHALLOW LIMESTONE	Photo Taken		Y		
Watershed	13060001220 BORICA					
Observers	ORTEGA & TRAUTNER	Observation Date		03/01/2010		
County Soil Survey	NM019 GUADALUPE	Soil Var/Taxad				
Soil Map Unit	032	Soil Taxon Name		REGNIER		
Texture Class	NM019 SL	Soil Phase		REGNIER- LATOM-ROC		
Texture Modifier	NM019 LOAM					
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation				
NOAA Annual Precipitation		NOAA Growing Season Precipitation				
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation		NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation				
Disturbances and Animal Use:						
<b>Part 2. Attributes and Indicators</b>						
		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns				X	
Comments:	Very little coming down the hills and into draws.					
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes					X
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground					X
Comments:	about 20%					
S H	Gullies					X
Comments:						

S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement					X
Comments:	Uniform throughout					
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation				X	
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups			X		
Comments:	a lot of juvenile juniper					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence				X	
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount				X	
Comments:	about 5% litter					
B	Annual Production					X
Comments:						
B	Invasive Plants			X		
Comments:	Juniper					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Populations					X
Comments:						

B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	Not applicable					
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	Not applicable					
<b>Part 3. Summary</b>						
A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.						
Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	0	3	7
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	5	6
B	Biotic	0	0	2	4	5
B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the <i>Does not Meet</i> column, Moderate becomes <i>May Need More Info</i> , and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the <i>Meets</i> columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.						
Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets		
Soil		0	0	10		
Hydrologic		0	0	11		
Biotic		0	2	9		
Site Notes: Some juniper encroachment, mostly young juniper. The area is surrounded by drainages and rock outcroppings which have juniper as natural habitat. All native grasses are present.						

# **Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 62028 MONTOKA RANCH**

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (dated January 2001) adopted three Standards for Public Land Health. These are (1) Upland Sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, Including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species Standard and (3) Riparian Sites Standard.

The ROD also established a process for the BLM Field Offices for implementation. Through a public participation process, the Roswell Field Office developed and adopted indicators to use in conjunction with existing monitoring data to assess these standards.

Field assessment worksheets and other available data that evaluate the local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on these assessments, it is my determination that public land within Montoya Ranch, allotment #62028, meets the (1) Upland Sites standard and (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species standard. There are no public land Riparian areas on this allotment, therefore this standard was not addressed.

/s/ J. Howard Parman  
Assistant Field Manager

05/21/2010  
Date